

Dr. W.D. Peterson

OBITUARY

Elder Willie Diamond Peterson was born October 13, 1911 in Tremble, Texas. He was the third of the three children born to the late Elder Dock and Ida Peterson.

He attended school in Tremble, Texas. In 1929 he was married to Mrs. Ora Bell McKinney. In 1931 Mrs. McKinney passed away. In 1934 Mr. Peterson was married to Mrs. Adell Williams. To this union was born three sons and five daughters. In 1970 Mrs. Adell Williams passed away. A year later, in 1971 he was married to Mrs. Lydia Jefferson, and that union remains still in spirit.

In 1975 Mr. Peterson received a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Trinity Hall College and Seminary, located in Springfield, Illinois. In 1976 Mr. Peterson's name appeared in the Who's Who, among Black Americans book. In 1977 his name was in the Notable Americans book.

Elder Peterson was saved at a very young age under the Leadership of the late Elder G.F. Lee, who was the Pastor of Ideal Church of God In Christ, in Dallas, Texas. Elder Peterson was ordained in 1935 in Tyler, Texas.

Elder Peterson moved to California in 1942. He was the founder and Builder of White Rose C.O.G.I.C., Stockton, California, one of the leading Churches in Northern California today.

Elder was a great leader. A unique administrator and churchman. For twenty-seven years he has led the members of Gospel Center C.O.G.I.C.. God called this great man home on Tuesday, January 19, 1988 in San Diego, California. Doctor Peterson was preceded in death by Mrs. Roberta McClain a sister.

Elder Peterson leaves to cherish his memory a loving and devoted wife, Mrs. Lydia Peterson; two sons Elder Willie Matthew Peterson and Minister, Carl Jefferson of Stockton, California; five daughters: Iantha Folmer of Oakland, CA., Betty Lee Early of San Bernardino, CA., Ruby Lutricia Williams of San Diego, CA., Ida Jean Roberts of Stockton, CA., Helen Fay Bivens of Castro Valley, CA.; one sister, Mrs. Gladys Howard; two daughters-in-law, Erma Paterson and Lillie Jefferson all of Stockton, CA.; thirty-five grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1988 — 7:00 P.M.
GOSPEL CENTER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

ORDER OF SERVICE

MASTER OF CEREMONY

CALL TO WORSHIP Choir

INVOCATION Elder O. Arbuthnot

SCRIPTURE READING

OLD TESTAMENT..... Elder S.H. Buggs

NEW TESTAMENT Minister W. Holmes

TRIBUTE RESOLUTIONS

SOLO Sis. B. Arbuthnot

REMARKS... (Please limit to three minutes)... Auxiliary Leaders

SELECTION Choir

EXPRESSIONS..... (Please limit to three minutes)

SPECIAL REMARKS Minister E. Holmes
 Elder O. Arbuthnot
 Elder S.A. Buggs
 Elder J. Pearson

SELECTION Choir

PARTING VIEW

RECESSIONAL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you for each act of kindness, prayer, food, cards, visitors and constant concern. The family asks God's blessings on the wonderful people of this city, the churches and all who have helped during our time of sickness and sorrow.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1988 — 11:00 A.M.
ISRAELITE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

ORDER OF SERVICE

MUSIC PRELUDE
MASTER OF CEREMONY..... Elder V. Cooper
PROCESSIONAL
SELECTION
INVOCATION Supt. H. Jesse
SCRIPTURE READING
 OLD TESTAMENT Supt. Sanders
 NEW TESTAMENT Supt. A.D. Cooper
SELECTION Dist. Choir
REMARKS (Please limit to three minutes)
SOLO
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDOLENCES
RESOLUTIONS
TRIBUTES
SELECTION
REMARKS Women's Department, Sis. Jean McKinney
 State Supervisor, Mother Elizabeth Nash
 Mother Mildred Jones
 Mother Rachael Benbow
SELECTION..... Ministers' wives
SPECIAL REMARKS Bishop B.R. Benbow
 Supt. H. Page
 Elder G. Pearson

OBITUARY

SELECTION
EULOGY Bishop George D. McKinney
Jurisdictional Prelate of the 2nd
Southern Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

PARTING VIEW
RECESSIONAL



MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1988 — 11:00 A.M.
WHITE ROSE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST
2340 S. Pilgrim Street
Stockton, California

ORDER OF SERVICE

MASTER OF CEREMONY Supt. L.A. Larkins
PROCESSIONAL Sis. Nettie Young
SCRIPTURE READING Rev. Littles
PRAYER Bishop L.B. Johnson
SELECTION
REMARKS (Please limit to three minutes) Audience
SELECTION
REMARKS Dist. Missionary Gladys Brown
RESOLUTIONS White Rose Church, Miss Patty Gipson
Gospel Center Church, San Diego, CA
REMARKS Supt. L.A. Larkins
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDOLENCES &
OBITUARY Ophelia Terry
SONG
PRESENTATION OF BISHOP
EULOGY Bishop W.W. Hamilton
PARTING VIEW
RECESSIONAL

INTERMENT
STOCKTON RURAL CEMETERY
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA



Jesus Is The Sweetest Name I Know

*Jesus is the sweetest name I know, He healed the sick soul,
He makest the wounded whole.*

Jesus is the sweetest name I know;

Jesus is the sweetest name I know.

*He bore the cross despise the shame, He died on Calvary, telling
us to pray and help us to be free, in the midst of friend and foes.
He helps us to be strong, giving us the courage and
strength to journey on.*

Jesus is the sweetest name I know.

Composed by the late Dr. W.D. Peterson

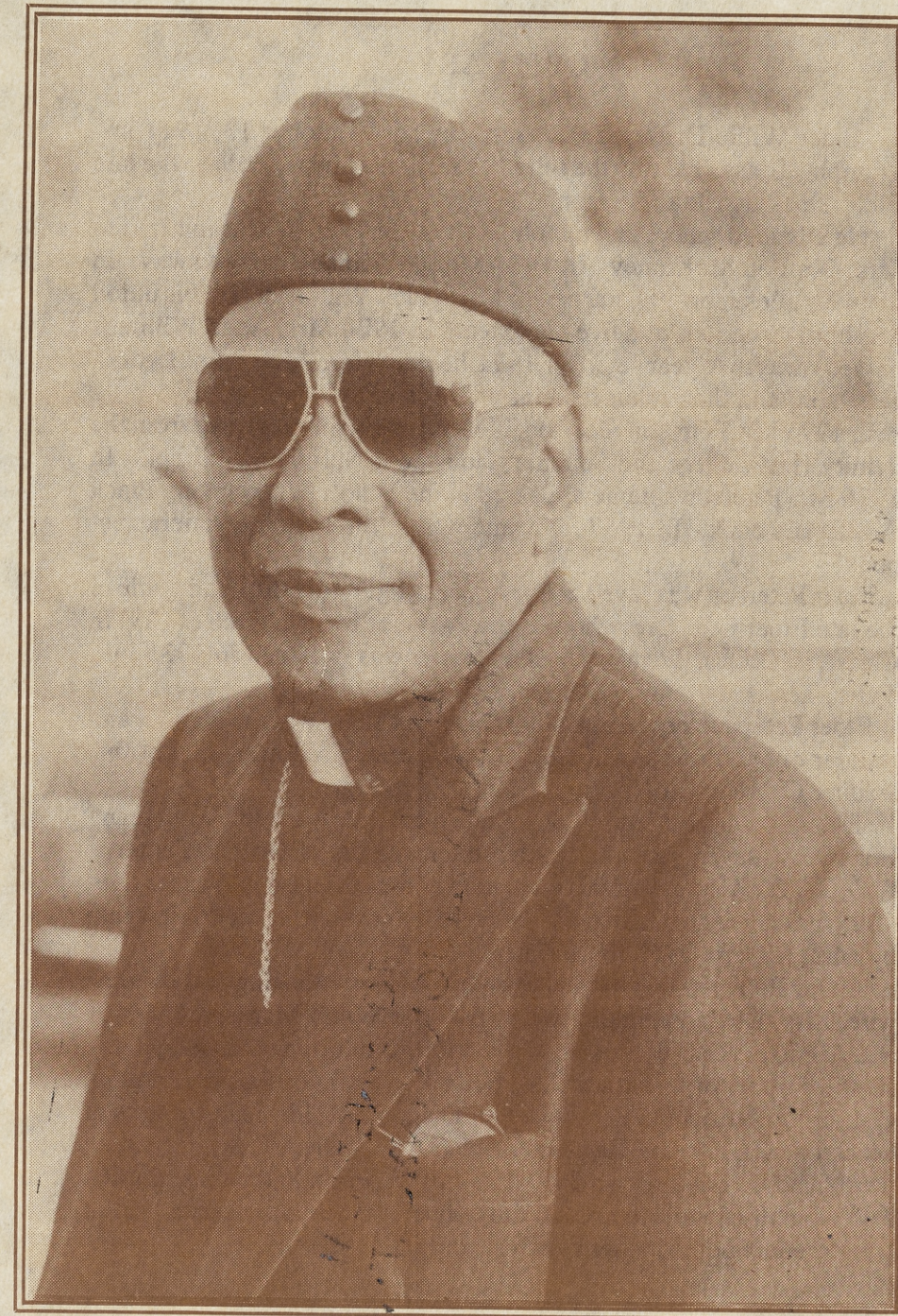


Anderson-Ragsdale Mortuary

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5050 FEDERAL BLVD SAN DIEGO, CALIF 92102

PHONE (619) 263-3141



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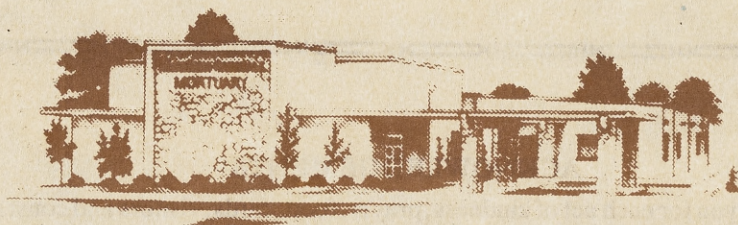
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Biography of Dr. W.D. Peterson

On October 13, 1911, a boy child was born to Mr. Dock and Mrs. Ida Peterson. His parents were very religious and saw to it that every Sunday he had to get in the wagon and go ten miles to Sunday school and church. His first experience with God was when he was about thirteen years old; one night he was caught away in a vision and saw Jesus coming down a long flight of stairs and he was standing at the foot of the stairs. Jesus pointed a finger at him and then pointed up the stair-way; He didn't say anything but Willie knew what Jesus ment, that is, for him to come up higher. His mother and father said that he preached his first message at the age of five, standing by a chair with tears running down his cheeks, he does not recall the message. He was saved at a very young age, under the leadership of the late Elder G. F. Lee who was the pastor of the Ideal C.O.G.I.C. Dallas, Texas, who noticed his faithfulness and appointed him to the deacon board; later on he was appointed assistant pastor also served as City Y.P.W.W. President of Dallas, Tex. under the late Bishop E.M. Page. When the pastor finally decided to let him go out and preach, he wrote on a sheet of paper "this is little Bro. Peterson from C.O.G.I.C., he is in good standing with the church and pastor receive him in the Lord." This sheet of paper served as his license for the time being and whenever he would go to another pastor he would pull out this sheet of paper and show it to him, the pastor would read it then look at Bro. Peterson, smile and say "yes young man you can preach for me. Later, Elder Lee recommended him to the ordination board and Bro. Peterson was ordained in 1935 in Tyler, Tex. He traveled in the Evangelistic field for ten years and many many souls were saved.

Elder Peterson conducted a revival, which he will never forget, in Odessa, Texas - he had preached for twenty nights with the house packed, people standing all out doors but not a soul would come to the altar. On the twentieth night, as he was appealing for someone to come to the altar, a dog came in the church right down the middle aisle and jumped up on the altar, turning his head from left to right looking at the people. He had preached one sermon but preached another message, God did not die for dogs. After this happened, the altar filled up and before Elder Peterson left, he and the pastor of that church baptised twenty souls. A woman who is now a noted missionary in Texas today, was saved in that revival. Elder Peterson preached out the first C.O.G.I.C. in Kemp, Tex., started without any members at all, just singing and picking an old guitar until the people started coming to see a little man having church by himself. In two months time he had preached out twenty-seven souls. He and his twenty-seven members started building a small church but were not blessed to finish it before moving to the west coast before leaving Texas, he also pastored in Plano and Shermom, Texas. When the announcement was made in one of the Union Meetings that Elder Peterson was moving to

California, a lady was sitting close to my wife and said to her friend (how in the world is he going to move to California with all those children). His first trip to California he stopped in Phoenix, Ariz. and preached for the late Bishop Taylor who tried hard to keep him in Ariz. he said if he could just keep this Texas preacher there and offered him a church if he would stay, but Elder Peterson's mind was made up to go to California. Some of the preachers in Ariz. said to him Elder Jackson will not let a young man like you preach, but when he arrived in San Diego, California, Elder Jackson received him with open arms.

Elder Peterson conducted a very successful revival at the Old Jackson Memorial Church. During that time he was standing in the office Elder Jackson wrote him out an appointment to the Church in El Centro, the same day a long letter came in the mail from Bishop E.M. Page of Tex. telling him to come back home, he was going to appoint him to the Sun Set C.O.G.I.C. in Texarkana, Tex., but it was too late.

Elder Peterson went back home to get his family and pack to move from Dallas, Tex. to El Centro, California the saints had blessed him real well financially, but after he finished with all the getting ready to move all the money was gone. A young man who had heard the announcement earlier, came to me and said, Elder Peterson I have a good car and if you bear the expense, I will be glad to take you and your family to California because I would like to go myself; Elder Peterson took the young man's phone no. because at the time he was broke. A few days later he received a letter from San Diego, CA, some of the saints had gotten together and sent him one-hundred dollars to help out with the expense. At that time one-hundred dollars was like a thousand now. Elder Peterson called the young man and asked him if he was ready to go and he was, so they took off to California. While in El Centro, he painted the church and he served as Y.P.W.W. Pres. of the Imperial Valley. Leaving El Centro, he moved to Stockton, CA. The late Elder Baby Perry had built a church and he converted the old church into a six room house. He told Elder Peterson he had been saving the house for him, because he knew he would not stay in El Centro long. Elder Peterson was the founder and builder of the White Rose C.O.G.I.C. in Stockton, CA one of the leading churches in Northern California today. He organized the first State Evangelist Board in Northern California served as State Experditor of finance, took the church in Weed, CA which had been forsaken because nobody wanted to pastor up in the mountains, a saw-mill town. Elder Peterson drove from Stockton to Weed a dantant of three-hundred miles; found five members there, he preached there that Sunday morning and tried to encourage, the few saints. He went back that night and the people heard that he was preaching again and a group came out to hear him. He preached and was about to dismiss because he

had heard that the few saints that were there had said, any time a preacher came by he was looking for money; so he didn't say a word about money. One of the deacons came up and said Elder, we would like to take an offering; He said very well if you wish the offering was twenty dollars. From that time on he started driving from Stockton to Weed, CA. He wore out two new cars going to and fro, sometimes through the snow and rain for five years, driving three hundred miles. While pastoring there Elder Peterson put in rest-rooms and built a new front porch and when he left the membership was up to twenty-seven and he also left thirteen-hundred dollars in the bank. As he was painting the church there in Weed, he looked up at Mt. Shaster and the Lord said Mt. Shaster Dist. He talked with the Bishop who was Bishop E.B. Stewart about what the Lord had said and he agreed and the Mt. Shaster District was organized, with four churches, Weed, Orasville, Redding, and Stockton. Elder Peterson was appointed Dist. Supt. of Mt. Shaster Dist. for the first time. He name Mt. Shaster Dist. and it is still going on strong.

Elder Peterson was in a car accident as he was going over the mountains to a prayer meeting one night, ice had formed on top of the mountains so the car started slipping and turning around in the road; it seemed as if the car was about to go down the canyon, he decided he would jump out rather than go down in the canyon, so he did and landed on his feet but before he could get out of the way the car turned and knocked him down the canyon cutting a gash in his head and hurting his back but it broke the fall of the car; it stopped half way. The members were wondering where is the pastor, but he managed to walk back up the hill; a big dent was knocked in the car where the car hit him and he told the members the Lord smote the shepherd to save the sheep. By that time a man came by in a station wagon & took him to the hospital in Mt. Shaster. Everybody knew Elder Peterson having heard him on the Broadcast in Weed; they treated him very nice. Bishop E. E. Hamilton had become to be the Bishop and came to see Elder Peterson while he was in the Hospital. He felt that he should come out of the mountains so he appointed him to the Stockton District and his young son Elder W.M. Peterson took the work in Weed, CA as pastor.

Elder Peterson had two cars so he let his son have one and stood in the rain and watched his son and family drive off to Weed, CA. He thought about when he left to go preach, young as his son only he left walking, he was glad his son was blessed to ride. He took the thirteen-hundred his father left there and added to it and completely remodeled the church added an office and social hall. Elder W.D. Peterson had named the church The Way-Side C.O.G.I.C. due to the fact it was on the main route to Portland, Ore., Washington, Canada and Alaska. Many preachers passed that way, and stopped by the Way-Side Church. Bishop J.A. Blake stopped by one night with his family, J.A. & Charles were very small boys at that time.

By that time Elder W.M. Peterson was ready to move back to Stockton, to help me with the church

and that his children would have the advantage of a better education, Elder W.D. Peterson was getting ready to move to San Diego, CA. While the Peterson's Pastored in Weed, CA. The property was donated to the church. Elder Peterson wanted his son to have his church since he had worked hard by his side, he informed the Bishop of this and the Bishop readily agreed and Elder W.M. Peterson was appointed to the White Rose Church in Stockton and is one of the leading pastors in Stockton. His father's farewell sermon before leaving for San Diego, was "Go Forward" in San Diego, he found ten members and some of them were discouraged and ready to leave so his first sermon in Gospel Center Church was "Hang On". The saints took new courage.

Elder Peterson left a nice home in Stockton and moved to the big white house on the hill here in San Diego; at the time there was no hot water, but the saints made it as comfortable as they possibly could. The church was not finished, it was heavily in debt, street bonds to be payed, plus other indebttness. The new pastor along with the faithful few saints payed off all the indebttness, burned the mortgage and are now eighty-five percent finished with the Greater Gospel Center Church worth 275 thousand dollars.

Elder Peterson served eight years as Assistant Supt. to Bishop J.A. Blake. The District grew to a large District, Bishop S.M. Crouch thought it should be divided so Elder Peterson was given three churches, four with his own and he organized the Logan Heights District. After the death of his own and he organized the Logan Heights District were combined. He served as Supt. of this District until 1979 when he decided to go and work with Bishop B.R. Benbow. He decided to take back the names of Logan Heights for his District. One of the highlights in his life was when he received a letter from Stockton stating that a park was to be named in his honor because he had gone out to Knights Addition when there was nothing there but Shepherds with their sheep. Many laughed at him but the Lord led him there to build the White Rose Church. There was not water, very few houses and no paved streets. He was instrumental in helping to build up that community which is now the best side of the city of Stockton. When the City decided to build a Park, some of the old timers remembered his work and how he pioneered that part of the city so they asked the city officials to name the new park "The Rev. W.D. Peterson Park." In 1975 he received a Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Trinity Hall College and Seminary, Springfield, Ill. In 1976 his name appeared in the Who's who among Black Americans book, in 1977 his name was in the Notable American's book. He is the 1st Administrative Assitant to Bishop B.R. Benbow of the Ecc. Jurisdiction of Cal. S.W., Chairman of the Elder's Council and Chairman of the Trustee Board of the State. He is now stepping down as Supt. of Logan Heights District, after having served as District Supt. for forty years. He has come this far by faith and is looking forward to the future with great hope and expectation because He lives.